

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/699,262
Applicants : Daniel C. Conrad et al.
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Examiner : Gregory E. Webb
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance issued concurrently with the Notice of Allowance on December 18, 2008. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not accurately described the features of Applicants' independent claims when characterizing Applicants' invention.

Specifically, independent claim 1 recites a method of cleaning comprising the steps of: selecting a wash liquor comprising: a non-aqueous working fluid and at least one washing adjuvant; bringing said working fluid in contact with the fabric in an automatic washing machine; applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement within said fabric in the automatic washing machine; wherein the non-aqueous working fluid is a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid;

and wherein the at least one washing adjuvant is selected from the group of: surfactants, enzymes, bleaches, fragrances, antistatic agents, and mixtures thereof.

Independent claim 28 recites a method of cleaning comprising the steps of: contacting a fabric with a wash liquor in an automatic washing machine, the wash liquor comprising; a non-aqueous working fluid, water, and a washing adjuvant; applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement within said fabric in the automatic washing machine; wherein the non-aqueous working fluid is a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid; and wherein the washing adjuvant is selected from the group of: surfactants, enzymes, bleaches, fragrances, and mixtures thereof.

Independent claim 32 recites a method of cleaning comprising the steps of: contacting a fabric with a wash liquor in an automatic washing machine, the wash liquor comprising a working fluid and a washing adjuvant; applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement within said fabric in the automatic washing machine; wherein the working fluid is a substantially non-reactive, non-aqueous, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid; wherein the wash liquor is substantially free of an organic co-solvent; and wherein the washing adjuvant is selected from the group of: surfactants, enzymes, bleaches, fragrances, antistatic agents, and mixtures thereof.

Independent claim 36 recites a method of cleaning comprising the steps of: contacting a fabric with a wash liquor in an automatic washing machine, the wash liquor comprising: non-aqueous, non-reactive, non-oleophilic, apolar working fluid under standard conditions is further characterized by; a KB value less than about 30; a surface tension less than about 35 dynes/cm²; and a solubility in water less than about 10%; water; an ajuvant; and applying mechanical energy to provide relative movement to the fabric in the automatic washing machine.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the different combinations of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of elements set forth separately in independent claims 1, 28, 32 and 36.

Respectfully submitted,

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